

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are all the claims pending in the application, claims 25-30 having been canceled as indicated herein. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 13, 14, 16, 20, 25, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Plunkett (U.S. Patent No. 5,386,478). Claims 3, 5-7, 9-12, 15, 17-19, 21-24, 26, 27, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Plunkett in view of Koyama et al..

§102(b) Rejections (Plunkett) - Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 13, 14, 16, 20, 25, and 28

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 13, 14, 16, 20, and 25 are rejected for the reasons set forth on pages 2-7 of the present Office Action.

With respect to independent claim 1, the claim states that a size of the sound generating means is determined by comparing gain data with a threshold. On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner cites col. 3, lines 44-52 of Plunkett as allegedly satisfying the above-quoted feature of claim 1. However, upon Applicant's review of the cited portion of Plunkett as well as other portions of Plunkett, there is no mention of a size of the sound generating means being determined by comparing gain data with a threshold. The cited portion of Plunkett only discusses the details of correcting imbalances in amplitude through automatic actuation of a remote control.

Further, Applicant submits that exemplary aspects of the claimed invention can result in a speaker which cannot output a low frequency band may be mixed, a system wherein a subwoofer can output a low frequency band for the speaker which can not output a low frequency band, a system wherein frequency characteristics, at least in a range from a low frequency to a middle frequency band, can be analyzed for every channel, and a system capable of adjusting a

correcting circuit such as an equalizer based on the result of the analysis of the previously mentioned frequency characteristics.

In contrast, the invention of Plunkett simply discloses (at col. 3, line 66 through col. 4, line 4) being capable of correcting frequency characteristics for every channel, providing a test signal at a specific frequency, and being in a middle frequency band instead of all the frequency bands. However, according to Applicant's understanding of Plunkett, only a specific frequency band is analyzed in Plunkett. Therefore, at least because Plunkett appears to only analyze a specific frequency, there does not appear to be a way for determining a particular size of a speaker, and such is not even mentioned anywhere in Plunkett.

Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that Plunkett does not anticipate claim 1. Applicant submits that claim 13 and 21 are patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 8, 14, 16, and 20 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

§103(a) (Plunkett/Kohyama) - Claims 3, 5-7, 9-12, 15, 17-19, 21-24, 26, 27 29, and 30

Applicant submits that independent claims 5, 9, 17, and 21 are patentable at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1. Kohyama does not make up for the deficiencies of Plunkett.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 3, 6, 7, 10-12, 15, 18, 19, and 22-24 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

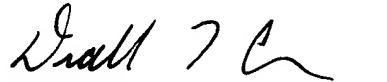
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/781,276

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q62652

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 8, 2005